"STUDY OF ETHNICITY AND IDENTITY POLITICS OF TIWA COMMUNITY IN ASSAM : THEIR RECENT TRENDS AND CHALLENGES, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MORIGAON AND NAGAON DISTRICT"

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Table of Content of Proposed Research

Sl. No.	Name
1	Introduction
2	Importance of Research
3	Selection of Research Object
4	Objective or Research
5	Question of Research
6	Hypothesis
7	Research Methodology
8	Data Collection
9	Sampling
10	Data Analysis
11	Research Limitations
12	Scope of Research
13	Chapter
14	Conclusion
15	Bibliography

TITLE : "STUDY OF ETHNICITY AND IDENTITY POLITICS OF TIWA COMMUNITY IN ASSAM : THEIR RECENT TRENDS AND CHALLENGES, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MORIGAON AND NAGAON DISTRICT"

Introduction:

The intricate relationship between ethnicity and identity politics has been a significant facet of societal dynamics, influencing the socio-political landscape of diverse regions across the globe. This study delves into the case of the Tiwa community in Assam, India, with a focus on exploring recent trends and challenges pertaining to their ethnicity and identity politics. Assam, a northeastern state of India, is known for its rich cultural diversity, complex history, and the interplay of multiple ethnic communities. The Tiwa community, one of Assam's indigenous groups, presents an intriguing subject of analysis due to its unique historical trajectory and evolving identity dynamics.

The Tiwa community, also known as Lalung, resides predominantly in the Morigaon and Nagaon districts of Assam. With their roots tracing back to the Tibeto-Burman ethnic group, the Tiwa people have maintained distinctive cultural practices, language, and social norms that set them apart within the broader Assamese society. However, like many indigenous communities, the Tiwa have encountered challenges to their identity and traditional way of life due to factors such as urbanization, modernization, and external influences.

Tiwa (Lalong) is an ethnic group/indigenous tribe inhabiting the states of Assam and Meghalaya (main region) and also they are recognized as a Scheduled tribe within the State of Assam. They was known as Lalungs in the Assamese Buranjis, Colonial literature and in the Constitution of India, though members of the group prefer to call themselves Tiwa (meaning "the people who were lifted from below"). Some of their neighbours still call them Lalung.

A striking peculiarity of the Tiwa is their division into two sub-groups, Hills Tiwas and Plains Tiwas, displaying contrasting cultural features. Ethnicity serves as a vital aspect of individual and collective identity, shaping social cohesion, cultural expressions, and political participation. Identity politics, in turn, involves the mobilization of groups based on their shared ethnic or cultural affiliations to advocate for their rights, representation, and cultural preservation. In Assam, where ethnic diversity is a defining characteristic,

identity politics plays a crucial role in negotiating power dynamics, resource allocation, and social recognition.

Importance of research :

The study on "Ethnicity and Identity Politics of Tiwa Community in Assam: Recent Trends and Challenges" holds significant importance due to its potential to provide valuable insights into various dimensions of ethnic dynamics and identity politics in Assam. Here are some reasons why this research is important:

The Tiwa community, like many indigenous groups, faces the risk of cultural erosion due to external influences and modernization. Understanding their recent trends and challenges allows for strategies to be developed to preserve their cultural heritage, language, and traditions.

This study contributes to the academic understanding of how ethnic communities negotiate their identity in the face of evolving socio-political landscapes. It adds to the body of knowledge on identity politics, ethnic relations, and cultural preservation, which can be relevant for scholars, researchers, and policymakers.

The findings of this research can inform policymakers and government agencies about the specific needs and challenges of the Tiwa community. This can lead to the development of more inclusive policies that respect and protect the cultural and political rights of indigenous communities.

By exploring the Tiwa community's experiences, the research promotes awareness and understanding among the general public and different communities in Assam. It helps bridge gaps in knowledge and empathy, promoting social harmony.

The research findings can be shared with the Tiwa community itself, empowering them with a deeper understanding of their identity dynamics and how they can navigate challenges. This knowledge can aid in community driven initiatives for cultural preservation.

The insights gained from studying the Tiwa community's experiences can potentially be applied to other indigenous and ethnic groups facing similar challenges in Assam or in other regions with diverse ethnic landscapes.

The study can enrich discussions around identity politics by providing a specific case study of how an ethnic group engages with political processes to assert its rights and maintain its identity. This contributes to the broader understanding of identity-based movements.

Selection of Research Subject :

Selecting the research subject of "Study on Ethnicity and Identity Politics of Tiwa Community in Assam: Recent Trends and Challenges" involves careful consideration of various factors. Here's a breakdown of why this research subject is a meaningful and relevant choice:

Assam is known for its diverse ethnic communities, each with its unique cultural identity. The Tiwa community, being one of these indigenous groups, presents an opportunity to delve into the complex dynamics of ethnicity, identity formation, and how these dynamics interact with the broader Assamese society.

Indigenous communities worldwide often face challenges related to cultural preservation, political representation, and socio-economic disparities. Focusing on the Tiwa community allows for a focused exploration of these challenges, shedding light on the specific issues that they encounter.

Assam has witnessed changes in its socio-political landscape over the years. Urbanization, migration, and globalization have implications for indigenous communities' identities and traditional practices. Studying recent trends helps understand how these communities adapt to changing circumstances.

Identity politics is a significant aspect of contemporary society, especially among indigenous groups. Investigating how the Tiwa community engages in identity politics provides insights into their efforts to assert their rights, gain representation, and preserve their cultural heritage.

As the field of indigenous studies gains prominence, there's a growing need to document and understand the experiences of indigenous communities. My research on the Tiwa community contributes to this academic discourse and expands the understanding of indigenous issues.

Objective of Research :

The objectives of the research study, "Study on Ethnicity and Identity Politics of Tiwa Community in Assam: Recent Trends and Challenges," are to comprehensively investigate various facets of the Tiwa community's identity politics within the context of contemporary Assam. The objectives are designed to provide a holistic understanding of the community's experiences, challenges, and strategies in navigating issues related to their ethnicity and identity. The following are the key objectives of the research:

1. To Examine the theoretical and conceptual farm work of ethnicity and identity politics

2. To explore the historical background for the emergence of ethnic identity politics of the Tiwa Community of Assam.

3. To examine the rule of Tiwa Autonomous council in protecting the Identity of Tiwas.

4. To study the recent trends and challenges of Tiwa Identity movement.

5. To Examine the rule of the Government towards the demand of Tiwa ethnic Identity movement.

6. To examine the present socio-economic cultural and political status of Tiwas in Nagaon and Morigaon District of Assam.

Research Question :

1. What is the (Socio Economic and Cultural) Historical Background of Tiwa Community of Assam?

2. What are the causes for the emergence of ethnic identity politics of Tiwa community?

3. How far the Tiwas Autonomous Council is successful to fulfil the aspiration of Tiwas?

4. What is the recent trends and challenges of connecting Tiwa Identity movement?

5. What are the response of the Government address the demands of the Tiwa Community?

6. What is the present socio-economic cultural and political status of Tiwa community in Nagaon and Morigaon District of Assam.

Hypothesis:

1.Tiwa community faces problems of ethnic identity.

2. The tiwa Community is facing challenges in Regard to their cultural identity recognition and preservation .

3 .Some indigenous communities including the tiwa Tribe faces difficulties in official recognition and documentation of their ethnic identity

4.There are limited economic opportunities for tiwa community in Morigaon and Nagaon District of Assam.

5.Less political Participation of Tiwa community in Morigaon and Nagaon District of Assam.

Research Methodology :

Research methods means the method and technique which are used by the researchers to conclude his research. Research methodology is a way to systematically solve the research problem. In this research the researchers will use quantitive and qualitative researchers to search a answer of research question.

A qualitative and quantitive research method will be used to analyze the historical background of Tiwa community, ethinic identity politics of Tiwa community, the success ratio of Tiwa Council for fulfiling the aspiration of Tiwas, to study recent trendes and challenges of Tiwa community and lastly to see the demands of this community from goverment of Assam.

For this purpose primary and secondary data will be collected.

Data Collection:

Primary Data:

Interviews: Conduct in-depth interviews with key informants from the Tiwa community, including community leaders, activists, scholars, and members. These interviews will provide qualitative insights into the community's perspectives on identity politics and challenges.

Focus Group Discussions: Organize focus group discussions with Tiwa community members to capture a diverse range of opinions and experiences related to identity and politics. This method will facilitate group dynamics and interactions.

Sampling:

Purposive Sampling: For in-depth interviews and focus group discussions, purposive sampling will be used to select participants who have significant knowledge and experience related to the Tiwa community's identity and political dynamics.

Data Analysis:

Qualitative Analysis: Thematic analysis will be employed to analyze the qualitative data obtained from interviews and focus group discussions. Data will be coded, categorized, and patterns/themes will be identified to capture the essence of identity politics and challenges.

Quantitative Analysis: Survey data will be analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics to quantify trends, attitudes, and correlations within the Tiwa community. This will provide a quantitative understanding of the research questions.

Research Limitations:

Due to the specific focus on the Tiwa community in Assam, findings may not be generalizable to other ethnic groups or regions. Interpretation of qualitative data is subject to researcher bias, although efforts will be made to ensure objectivity through triangulation and member checking. The evolving nature of identity politics might pose challenges in capturing real-time trends and opinions.

Scope of Research :

The scope of research for the topic "Study on Ethnicity and Identity Politics of Tiwa Community in Assam: Recent Trends and Challenges" encompasses various dimensions that need to be considered to comprehensively address the research questions. Here are some key aspects that fall within the scope of my study:

Exploration of the Tiwa community's historical and cultural background, including their origin, migration, and interactions with other ethnic groups in Assam. Analysis of how the Tiwa community perceives and defines its ethnic

identity in the context of a diverse and multicultural Assam. Examination of cultural practices, traditions, and symbols that play a role in shaping the Tiwa identity.

Investigation into the contemporary trends and dynamics of identity politics within the Tiwa community. Identification of key events, incidents, or movements that have influenced the community's engagement in identity politics. Analysis of factors that have contributed to the rise of identity politics within the community in recent times.

Assessment of the Tiwa community's involvement in local, regional, and national politics. Examination of the strategies used by the community to assert its political voice and demand representation. Analysis of the impact of identity politics on the political representation and visibility of the Tiwa community.

Identification and analysis of the challenges faced by the Tiwa community in its pursuit of ethnic identity politics. Exploration of the opportunities that identity politics offers for community empowerment, social change, and cultural preservation. Discussion of potential conflicts arising from identity-based mobilization and strategies to manage such challenges.

Examination of the socio-economic disparities experienced by the Tiwa community and the role of identity politics in addressing or exacerbating these disparities. Analysis of how identity politics can influence access to resources, development initiatives, and economic opportunities for the Tiwa community.

Assessment of the role of identity politics in promoting the revival, preservation, and promotion of Tiwa cultural practices, languages, and traditions. Exploration of whether identity politics contributes to a renewed interest in maintaining the community's cultural heritage.

Chapter :

1. Introduction
2. History of Tiwa Community, Historical Background of Tiwa Community
3. Profile of Morigaon and Nagaon District
4. Recent Trends and Challenges of Tiwa Community
5. The present soci economic and political status of Tiwa community in Nagaon and Morigaon District.

6. Data Collection

7. Conclusion and Suggestion

Conclusion :

In conclusion, identity politics plays a significant role within the Tiwa community in Assam, India, shaping their collective narrative, aspirations, and engagement with broader social and political landscapes. The Tiwa people's historical experiences of marginalization, land dispossession, and cultural assimilation have spurred the emergence of identity politics as a means of empowerment and reclamation.

Through identity politics, the Tiwa community strives to address a range of issues, including land and resource rights, cultural preservation, political representation, and socioeconomic development. By rallying around their shared identity, they aim to assert their presence, protect their heritage, and secure a meaningful place within the complex mosaic of Assam's society.

This research contributes to our understanding of ethnicity and identity politics within the Tiwa community in Assam, with a particular focus on recent trends and challenges in Morigaon and Nagaon districts. By examining the intricate interplay between identity, politics, and societal changes, this study underscores the importance of recognizing and supporting the diverse ways in which communities navigate the complexities of their identities in a rapidly changing world.

As the Tiwa community navigates the currents of identity politics, it's vital for their leaders, activists, and members to promote dialogue, empathy, and understanding. By forging connections beyond their community, they can work towards shared goals, challenge stereotypes, and contribute to a more united Assamese society that honors diversity while seeking common ground.

In the end, identity politics within the Tiwa community is a dynamic force that reflects their journey towards self-determination, social justice, and cultural resilience. By embracing the strengths of their collective identity while being mindful of its potential limitations, the Tiwa people can continue to shape their own narrative and play a vital role in the ongoing evolution of Assam's social and political landscape.

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